

The Weekly Fishing News

September 13th, 2019

Cordova

Alaska

After a record-breaking warm, dry, and smoky summer, we are enjoying the return of a more seasonable, rainy weather pattern. Subtropical moisture is streaking into our area, keeping temperatures above average. The combination of warm, moist air aloft and abundant rainfall has increased glacier melt that will likely discolor Ibeck Creek and Alaganik Slough. The decline in water clarity may make for difficult fishing conditions on these rivers this weekend, however, expect good angling for Coho (a.k.a. “silver”) Salmon in smaller streams where the water remains fishable.

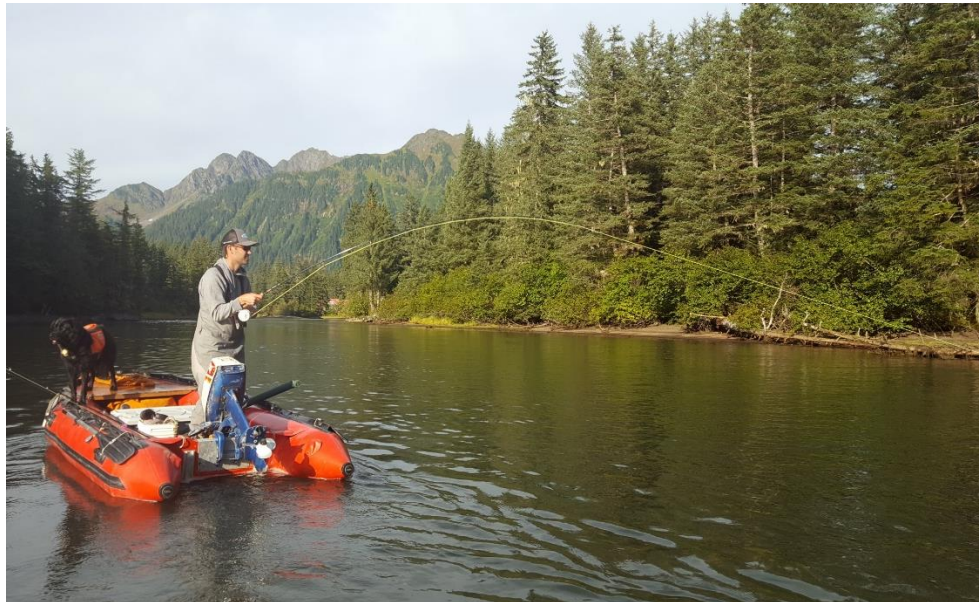


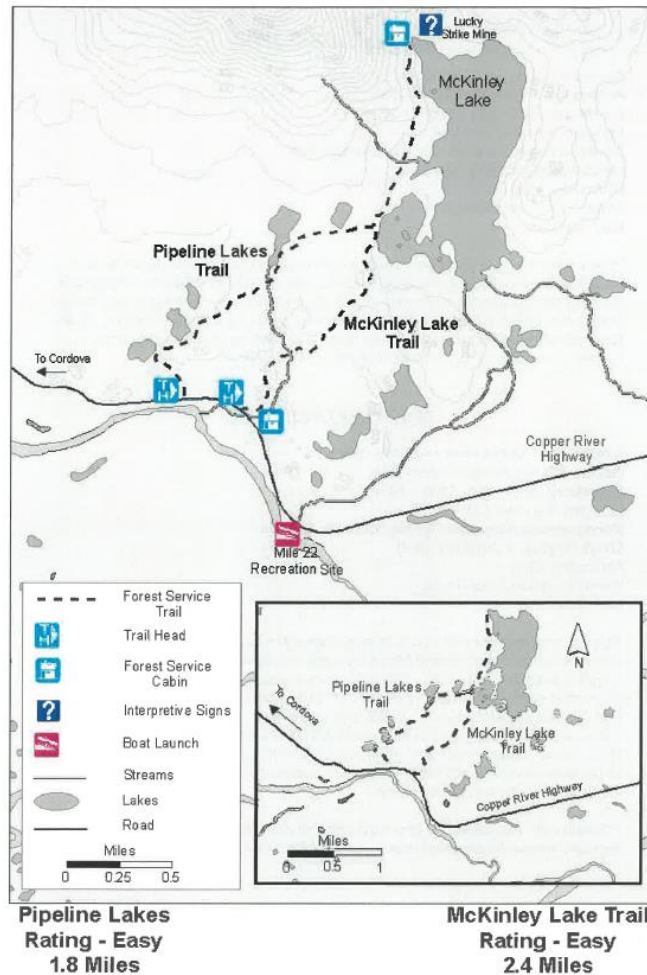
Photo caption: A bright coho takes line from Ben Wright on Eyak River.

Anglers are likely to find good numbers of salmon moving into tributaries of the Alaganik Slough. The fishing should remain excellent in Eyak River if the water clarity holds. Anglers who are willing to hike upstream on Ibeck Creek may also be rewarded for their efforts.

As the season progresses, anglers will tangle with increasing numbers of salmon that are blushing into their spawning hues. Unless you are keeping them for the smoker, please gently release these survivors back into the stream so they can spawn. Remember these four keys to ensure a successful release: 1) fish artificial lures or flies with single barbless hooks, 2) use sufficiently heavy tackle and line so you can bring the fish to hand in less than 5 minutes, 3) keep the fish in the water at all times (a legal requirement for Coho on the CRD), and 4) hold your catch upright and gently sway its tail until the fish swims off under its own power.

If you crave variety or if you are struggling to find clear water fishing opportunities for Coho Salmon, consider mixing it up by targeting Dolly Varden or cutthroat trout in our local ponds and lakes. The Pipeline Lakes, accessible by a maintained trail, can offer excellent fishing with light tackle for small but beautiful cutthroat, regardless of the weather.

Pipeline Lakes & McKinley Lake Trails



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